



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 March 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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## Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports President Bush has signed legislation extending authorization of the federal highway program for two months, a move that prevents nearly 5,000 Department of Transportation workers from being laid off. (See item [8](#))
- The Associated Press reports U.S. postal inspectors have taken over the investigation into a mail bomb that exploded in the hands of Scottsdale, Arizona's diversity director, injuring him and two others at the city's human resources building. (See item [12](#))
- Techworld reports security consultancy Secunia says a security hole in Dell OpenManage server could leave the product open to attack by an unauthorized user. (See item [27](#))
- eWEEK reports a security issue that could result in stolen passwords and data was revealed for Apple Computer Inc.'s Apple Filing Protocol, a component of Mac OS X 10.3.2. (See item [29](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 02, The Australian* — Venezuela threatens oil exports. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has sent a tremor across the international oil market with threats of cutting oil

**exports to the U.S.** Predictions that oil price could soar above \$US40 a barrel if Venezuelan oil stopped being shipped to the U.S. come as the rapid resurgence in the U.S. economy is forcing a realization that high crude oil prices are here to stay in the medium term. Mr. Chavez accuses Washington of backing a failed coup against him just over a year ago after an oil industry strike sent crude oil prices soaring. The U.S. takes about 1.65 million barrels of Venezuelan crude oil a day, representing some 40 per cent of the country's production. **Venezuela is among the four top suppliers of crude and oil products to the U.S. market.**

Source: [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0.574.4.8837079%255E643.00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0.574.4.8837079%255E643.00.html)

2. *March 01, Reuters* — **Nuclear plant shut after leak found. Arizona Public Service shut the 1,270 megawatt Palo Verde 3 nuclear unit in Arizona after finding boric acid residue outside of the reactor coolant system during an inspection, the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in an event report on Monday, March 1.** The company said the event "did not result in the release of radioactivity to the environment and did not adversely affect the safe operation of the plant or health and safety of the public." On February 29, engineering personnel performing scheduled visual examinations of reactor coolant system piping "discovered boric acid residue on the...pressurizer heater sleeve," the company said. "The visual observation was characterized as a small white buildup of boron residue around the heater sleeve as the sleeve enters the pressurizer bottom head," APS added. The Palo Verde station is located in Wintersburg, AZ, about 50 miles west of Phoenix.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/040301/utilities\\_pinnaclewest\\_paloverde\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/040301/utilities_pinnaclewest_paloverde_1.html)

3. *March 01, The Kansas City Star (MO)* — **Lightning blamed in oil tank blasts. Three oil storage tanks apparently were hit by lightning Sunday, February 29, and exploded in a field near Gardner, KS. Max Seilert, fire chief for Johnson County Fire District No. 1, said no one was around at the time and though preliminary signs pointed to lightning, an official investigation was under way.** One of two 200-barrel tanks was blown off its base and came to rest 15 feet from where it originally sat. The top seam of the other tank was ruptured. A van-size hole was ripped in the side of a third, 130-barrel tank. The Johnson County Environmental Department and the Kansas Corporation Commission were called for assistance and will continue to advise as the site is repaired and the ground is cleaned.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/8074371.htm>

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## **Chemical Sector**

4. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Chemical spill forces closure of a section of Interstate 59.** There's no word from state troopers on when a section of Alabama's Interstate 59 between Crossville and Reece City will reopen to traffic. Troopers said the roadway will remain closed this morning, March 1, while clean up crews work with a chemical spill. **A tanker truck carrying an extremely flammable chemical overturned yesterday (Sunday, February 29) afternoon near area known as the "cut in the mountain."** Troopers said when the truck wrecked, it was left tilted down a steep hill and had leaked some of the chemical it was hauling. The accident happened at about 1:30 pm, the driver, 56-year-old James Earl McHenry of Chickasaw was not injured. Troopers said the north and southbound lanes

between mile markers 188 and 205 will remain closed until crews are able to remove all of the spilled chemical.

Source: <http://www.waff.com/Global/story.asp?S=1678032>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *March 01, News12.com (CT)* — **Army temporarily suspends production of helicopters. The Army has stopped accepting Black Hawk helicopters from its prime contractor for the helicopter. The military says the decision was based on concerns that the contractor was using faulty parts on its assembly line.** According to company representatives, the suspension is only temporary. Company officials expect they will begin delivering Black Hawk helicopters later this week. The decision to temporarily suspend Black Hawk operations comes a few days after the military canceled its Comanche helicopter program with the same contractor.

Source: <http://www.news12.com/CT/topstories/article?id=102200#>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *March 01, BBC News (UK)* — **New clampdown on money laundering. Laws to prevent money laundering in the UK are being extended to a number of new business sectors beginning Monday, March 1. Lawyers, accountants, casino bosses and estate agents could all now face prison if they fail to report suspected fraud.** It comes under an extension to the Proceeds of Crime Act, that previously only applied to banks, to further clamp down on money laundering. Under the act, anyone with suspicions is obliged to contact the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS). The NCIS believes the new rules will mean a doubling in the number of reported fraud cases.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/3521261.stm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

7. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Missouri Senate hears pros, cons of toll roads. Supporters said toll roads can bring in the money needed to repair Missouri's deteriorating roads while opponents called tolls an unfair tax February 24.** The exchange came during a meeting of the Missouri Senate Transportation Committee in which testimony was heard on a proposal asking voters to approve a constitutional change to allow toll roads. The committee, however, didn't vote and the proposal's sponsors admitted it probably won't pass in 2004. The Senate had voted earlier to pass an amendment to gradually do away with the practice of funneling road finances to other agencies and to gradually direct all vehicle sales tax revenue to roads. Toll roads were mentioned by Sen. John Loudon, R-Ballwin, as a way for communities to "accelerate funding" for projects. **Federal law prohibits tolls on interstates that are toll free but a federal highway funding measure could remove that restriction, news sources**

reported.

Source: [http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/03\\_04/0301\\_mo\\_tolls.html](http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/03_04/0301_mo_tolls.html)

8. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Bush signs highway bill. President Bush on Sunday, February 29, signed legislation extending authorization of the federal highway program for two months, a move that prevents nearly 5,000 Department of Transportation workers from being laid off. The House Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 specifically extends highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund.** The extensions are needed as Congress works out a final highway bill. An earlier extension expired on Sunday. House and Senate leaders now trying to work out differences on a major new highway bill that would outline spending over the next six years. The Senate recently approved a \$318 billion bill, which the White House has threatened to veto, saying it shouldn't go above the president's \$256 billion proposal. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said that without the temporary extension, the department would have had to furlough 5,000 workers who do safety inspections of trucks crossing U.S. borders, and would halt the flow of federal money to hundreds of highway construction projects under way across America.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,112912,00.html>

9. *March 01, KZTV10 (Corpus Christi, TX)* — **Possible traitor ruins buses.** The Texas Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) says seventeen brand new buses have been sabotaged by an RTA employee. **Officials say that after detailed and accurate analysis they concluded that someone had placed a sandblasting media inside the engines. The sand found inside the engines is an exact match to the kind used within the maintenance department, leading officials to believe it was one of the department's 31 employees who is responsible.** For now all RTA can do is flush the engines free of the debris. The RTA has 84 buses. Those 17 that were sabotaged have not compromised the safety of passengers, just reliability. Police are still investigating the RTA's maintenance department. They hope to wrap it all up soon, and then put a name and face to the culprit who did this.

Source: <http://www.cbs10kztv.com/news/headlines/656947.html>

10. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Man drives SUV into Kahului Airport. A man drove his SUV into the ticket lobby of Kahului Airport on Sunday morning, February 29, and set it on fire, grounding outgoing flights for hours. No one was injured.** The incident occurred at about 8 a.m. when a dark blue Dodge Durango was driven into the open-air terminal and its driver ignited it, said Lowrey Leong, the director of the Transportation Security Administration on Maui. "I went to knock on the window and he just lit it up," said Kalani Hoopii, a baggage handler. Hoopii said he and two other baggage handlers went up to the vehicle and saw a can of gasoline and a man flicking a lighter. The vehicle was about 20 feet from the United Airlines ticket counter with flames rising as high as the ceiling, Leong said. The 52-year-old driver from Haiku was arrested, officials said, but his identity was not released. "It's an isolated incident. It's a personal matter," Gov. Linda Lingle said. "The owner of the car was upset about something with a friend of his and, in an emotional rage, he drove his SUV into the lobby of the Kahului Airport. Nobody was hurt. It is not related to terrorism at all."

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-03-01-suv-airport\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-03-01-suv-airport_x.htm)

11.

*March 01, Associated Press* — **U.S. agents eye foreign airports.** The United States is drafting a plan to station Homeland Security officers at seven international airports to prevent potential terrorists from boarding U.S.-bound planes. **Under the plan, U.S. agents would work with local security officers at the airports, The Journal reports, reviewing passenger lists and questioning suspicious travelers who would likely be turned away once they reached the United States. The airports targeted are: London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports, Narita near Tokyo, Charles de Gaulle in Paris, Frankfurt Main in Germany, Mexico City International and Schiphol airport in Amsterdam.** Of the 70 million people who fly to the United States every year, those ports process 40 percent. U.S. customs agents are already stationed outside the United States: They have operated in Canadian airports for some time. Under a more recent initiative, customs officers took up posts at foreign seaports to screen cargo headed to the United States. But extending U.S. sovereignty to foreign airports raises both symbolic and practical questions: Could a U.S. agent arrest someone in Germany? Would a Homeland Security officer be allowed to carry, and use, a firearm in Japan? Who would have the final word on whether a person could fly to the United States? What would happen to those who were refused?

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/03/01/terror/main603196.shtml>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

12. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Postal inspectors investigate mail bomb. U.S. postal inspectors have taken over the investigation into a mail bomb that exploded in the hands of Scottsdale, AZ's diversity director February 26, injuring him and two others at the city's human resources building.** Spokesman Bob Maes said he didn't know whether Don Logan, director of the city's diversity and dialogue office, was targeted personally or because of his work. Investigators were unaware of any threats against Logan or the diversity office. Authorities declined to comment on the bomb's composition and how it was made, but plan to re-create the device in an attempt to find clues about who sent it. The bomb detonated when Logan opened the notebook-sized package. The bomber could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine in addition to other federal charges, Maes said.

Source: [http://www.napanews.com/templates/index.cfm?template=story\\_full&id=7C3F83CE-5C41-4723-B3D3-72E9CC8C5BF2](http://www.napanews.com/templates/index.cfm?template=story_full&id=7C3F83CE-5C41-4723-B3D3-72E9CC8C5BF2)

13. *February 27, Congress Daily* — **GAO urges Congress to pass postal overhaul.** The General Accounting Office (GAO) urged Congress Thursday, February 26, to pass broad postal overhaul legislation this year, warning incremental changes will not be enough to preserve the service as it currently exists. **In a letter to Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Susan Collins, R-ME, Comptroller General David Walker said, "Comprehensive postal reform is urgently needed," and the service is threatened by declining mail volume, uncertain funding for emergency preparedness, and an outdated and inflexible rate-setting process.** Walker said small-scale changes cannot "resolve the fundamental and system issues associated with the service's current business model." Only full reform can "avoid the risk of significant taxpayer bailout or dramatic postal rate increases," Walker said. **GAO placed the postal service on its "high risk" list in 2001, and Walker has testified to Congress several times since then on the need for change.**



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## **Agriculture Sector**

14. *March 01, USAgNet* — **Two bird flu–affected areas removed from quarantine.** China's Ministry of Agriculture Sunday, February 29, that the quarantine on two areas hit by the H5N1 strain of bird flu have been lifted, saying the areas have been freed of the epidemic. **The areas are Shilin county of southwest China's Yunnan province, and Haifeng county, in south China's Guangdong province. No new bird flu cases had been suspected or confirmed in these areas for 21 successive days since the last birds in the affected areas were culled, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.** Experts in animal epidemics and officials concluded after inspections that the disease had been eradicated in the two places and the areas met the requirements for the lifting of isolation orders as stipulated in the Emergency Countermeasures Against Avian Influenza and the Technical Standards Regarding the Fight Against Avian Influenza.  
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=213&yr=2004>
15. *March 01, National Human Genome Research Institute* — **Chicken genome assembled.** The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), March 1 announced that the first draft of the chicken genome sequence has been deposited into free public databases for use by biomedical and agricultural researchers around the globe. A team successfully assembled the genome of the Red Jungle Fowl, Gallus gallus, which is the ancestor of domestic chickens. Comprised of about one billion DNA base pairs, the chicken genome is the first avian genome to be sequenced. Recent outbreaks of avian flu have accelerated scientists' interest in learning more about the chicken genome and how genetic variation may play a role in the susceptibility of different strains to the disease. In addition to its tremendous economic value as a source of eggs and meat, the chicken is widely used in biomedical research.  
Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-03/nhgr-cga030104.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-03/nhgr-cga030104.php)
16. *March 01, Agence France Presse* — **Third Japanese bird flu outbreak caused by H5N1 virus strain.** Japan confirmed that the virulent H5N1 strain of flu virus which has claimed 22 lives in Asia was behind the nation's third domestic outbreak of the disease. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi meanwhile urged farmers to alert authorities of signs of bird flu as soon as possible, after the latest outbreak was allowed to spread because of a delay in its reporting. **Japanese authorities on Saturday, February 28, confirmed the nation's third bird flu outbreak since 1925 at a large poultry farm in Tanba in Kyoto Prefecture, 250 miles southwest of Tokyo.** The strain was also detected in Japan's first two outbreaks, which were in January and February. At least 67,000 chickens have died over the past week at the Tanba farm, which is slaughtering 130,000 remaining chickens and sanitizing the entire farm. **The farm has drawn criticism from retailers and politicians for shipping at least 15,000 of the birds even while thousands were dying daily. Many of the shipped birds later tested positive for bird flu and meat from 10 of them had already been used at a restaurant in Osaka.**  
Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1507&ncid=1507&e=3&u=/afp/20040301/hl\\_afp/health\\_flu\\_japan\\_040301130219](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1507&ncid=1507&e=3&u=/afp/20040301/hl_afp/health_flu_japan_040301130219)

17. *February 27, USAgNet* — **Bovine TB case in Michigan. Federal and state officials are currently investigating a preliminary case of bovine TB in a bull from a small beef herd in Barry County, Michigan, though the strain is known to not be from Michigan.** Michigan has been combating bovine TB in both livestock and wildlife for the past few years, said Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant. State Veterinarian Joan Arnoldi explained that the bull came from Canada to a Michigan livestock auction market where it was purchased by a Barry County producer. The producer later sold the animal and it went to a slaughterhouse in Pennsylvania, where an inspector noticed lesions typical of TB and sent samples for diagnosis. Recent preliminary results from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory, where the animal was tested, indicate it to be bovine TB positive. However, through a process known as DNA fingerprinting, it was confirmed to not be the strain of TB unique to Michigan. Scientists are now working to determine the particular strain and origin of the TB.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=205&yr=2004>

18. *February 27, Iowa Ag Connection* — **USDA ties money to Ames lab's finish. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ann Veneman assured lawmakers February 25 that the National Centers for Animal Health in Ames, IA, will be finished in 2007 if Congress approves the final construction money this year.** President Bush's proposed 2005 budget includes \$178 million to complete the million-square-foot addition and renovation of the laboratories. The money would finish the project at a total cost of \$460 million. Veneman told the House agricultural appropriations subcommittee that it would cost more in the long run if Congress stretched out the project's completion.

Source: <http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=174&yr=20 04>

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## **Food Sector**

19. *February 27, Health Day* — **Listeria research. Purdue University researchers have identified a previously unknown protein on the surface of intestinal cells, a finding that may help scientists develop a way to prevent foodborne Listeria monocytogenes infection.** "This research reveals a detailed mechanism that allows interaction of Listeria with a cell-surface protein, or receptor, on intestinal cells. Knowing the entryway into the cell will allow us in the future to develop a method to prevent that interaction," Arun Bhunia, a microbiologist in the food science department, says in a prepared statement. This receptor is not unique for Listeria, so it also could be used by other organisms to take advantage and get inside a host cell to cause disease," study author Jennifer Wampler, says in a prepared statement. **Listeria causes about 2,500 recorded cases of foodborne illness each year in the United States. It's the deadliest foodborne disease, with a fatality rate of 20 percent.**

Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/health/content/shared-auto/heal thnews/safp/517625.html>

20. *February 27, Associated Press* — **Company recalling guacamole.** Another recall of guacamole possibly tainted with a deadly bacteria has been issued. **El Burrito Mexican Food Products says it is recalling Springfield Fresh Guacamole and El Burrito Guacamole sold**

in Southern California on or after February 3. There are concerns the guacamole could be contaminated with listeria, a contagion that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections. No illnesses have been reported in connection with the guacamole in question. It's the second such recall in two weeks. Another recall was previously issued for guacamole sold at Trader Joe's and Whole Foods stores.

Source: <http://www.thebakersfieldchannel.com/news/2882722/detail.htm>

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

21. *March 01, New York Times* — **Tests confirm that Nigeria was source of polio case in Ivory Coast.** Laboratory tests have confirmed that Nigeria was the source of the virus that caused a case of polio in Ivory Coast, the director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) polio eradication program said. **Ivory Coast is the eighth previously polio-free country in Africa where the disease has reappeared in recent months. Nigeria is believed to have also exported the infections to the seven other previously polio-free African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Togo, and Chad.** The WHO says the exported cases and continued opposition to polio vaccination by religious and political leaders in the northern states of Nigeria are jeopardizing its efforts to eradicate polio by the end of this year. Opposition from religious and political leaders in the north of Nigeria has forced the suspension of an immunization program being conducted in Nigeria and other countries in Africa where polio is endemic or has been spread in recent months. The program aims to vaccinate 63 million children under the age of 5. **Polio can spread readily as long as there is a single case anywhere.**

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/131980.htm>

22. *March 01, Reuters* — **U.S. flu activity has declined dramatically. "The influenza season has really wound down dramatically," Dr. Nancy Cox, chief of the influenza branch at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said. "We have had an early peak, and the activity is really declining, lower than levels that usually appear at this time of year,"** said Cox, who added that health officials were keeping a close eye on the possible emergence of new influenza strains late in the flu season. Influenza is believed to kill about 36,000 people and hospitalize 114,000 in the United States every year. Exact figures on flu-related deaths are difficult to come by because U.S. doctors are not required to report such deaths. Public anxiety has been high this year because the flu hit the nation hard in early October, before many Americans had been vaccinated. The U.S. flu season typically runs from October through March.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4471832&section=news>



23. *March 01, Xinhuanet* — **Bird flu vaccine to come out in six months. Robert Webster, bird flu expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Laboratory on Influenza, said at a press conference that a human vaccine for the H5N1 bird flu virus is being studied and is expected to be available in six months' time.** As told by Webster, the vaccine is devised by using the technology of reverse genetics and is now ready for testing on humans. Once it is proved to be safe and effective in protecting human from the H5N1 virus, the vaccine will be released for the public. Since the WHO evaluates human vaccines each year, there should be no worry about the vaccine failing to keep up with the ever-changing nature of H5N1, Webster added.

Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-03/01/content\\_1339529.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-03/01/content_1339529.htm)

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *March 01, Today's Trucking* — **Biometric test for Hazmat drivers near complete.** The U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), along with a dozens of trucking carriers, shippers, truck OEMs, and Intelligent Transportation Systems providers took part in the final Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Field Operational Test last week. The FMCSA deployment team is now entering the final stages of its 18-month, \$5 million deployment test program. **In the solution being tested, smart cards are used by drivers in conjunction with fingerprint scanners to validate driver identities and record drop-off, pickup, and truck start-up events.** The smart cards contain predetermined driver-specific information and a biometric fingerprint template for each driver, and are integrated with a global login system, which will record each verification event and alert dispatchers if an unauthorized person attempts to operate the truck. Moreover, through further GPS technology, truck ignition and braking systems can be controlled remotely by dispatchers in the event of an alert.

Source: <http://www.todaystrucking.com/displayarticle.cfm?ID=2957>

25. *March 01, PRNewswire* — **Talking first aid kit to be unveiled at Homeland & Global Security Summit.** According to the American Red Cross, close to 60% of Americans are slumbering when it comes to emergency preparedness. Other analysis shows that only 5% of American households even have a first aid kit, and most of those that do just have bandaids in a box. And among businesses and government institutions, first aid preparedness is insufficient at best. **To help American families, companies and the general workforce become better prepared for first aid emergencies, a first kit with step-by-step audio instructions to manage commonly occurring injuries will be introduced at the Homeland & Global Security Summit, March 31–April 1 in Washington, DC.** The Intelligent First Aid Kit(TM) combines both the supplies and visual instruction cards for the most common injuries — separated into individually labeled and color-coded packs for each type of injury — so the user

has all the supplies and easy-to-follow instructions for managing a specific injury. The audio chips take the technology one step further, delivering audio care instructions with the press of a button affixed to the each individual injury instruction card.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040301/nym144\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040301/nym144_1.html)

**26. *March 01, National Journal's Technology Daily* — Ridge unveils plan for first responders.**

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on Monday, March 1, unveiled a standardized management plan to be used by first responders to emergencies. **The National Incident Management System (NIMS) will provide a "unified command center for state, local and federal [entities] so that all levels of government share a common set of ... protocols [for] seamless response," Ridge said during a luncheon keynote at the National Association of Counties (NACo) legislative conference.** NIMS sets standardized guidelines for all localities to follow when responding to emergencies. NIMS will be a "common operating picture from which we can all work," Ridge said. "As we developed NIMS, we made sure everyone had a seat at the table. We will call on [local officials] later to execute the game plan." Ridge also acknowledged the frustration among first responders in receiving their homeland security grants. "I understand we have some challenges in getting those dollars out, but [the department will] simplify an often complicated grant process," he said. The nation is "more secure and better prepared" than it was a year ago, Ridge added.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/030104tdpm1.htm>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

**27. *February 27, Techworld* — Critical security hole in Dell OpenManage. A security hole in Dell OpenManage server could leave the product open to attack by an unauthorized user.**

The problem has been identified as high risk by security consultancy Secunia. The vulnerability is caused due to a boundary error in the Web server when handling certain HTTP POST requests. POST is an extremely common HTML method of processing forms but can be exploited by sending a message with a hidden but extremely long variable to cause a heap overflow. **The vulnerability can be side-stepped by restricting access to Port 1311/TCP and only allowing trusted IP addresses to connect.** However, without that in place, a denial of service or system access are readily achievable. Additional information is available on the Secunia Website: <http://secunia.com/advisories/10994/>

Source: <http://www.techworld.com/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=displaynews&NewsID=1115>

**28. *February 27, eWEEK* — Vulnerability in WinZip could compromise security.** Security analysts on Friday, February 27, reported that **versions of the popular ZIP file management program WinZip have a serious security flaw.** According to iDefense Inc., an error in the parameter parsing code in these versions "allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code." The attacker would have to construct a specially designed MIME archive (with one of .mim, .uue, .uu, .b64, .bhex, .hqx and .xxe extensions) and distribute the file to users. Once opened, the attack would trick WinZip into executing code contained in the attacking file. iDefense said it had a functioning proof-of-concept attack demonstrating the problem. **The malicious file could be distributed by e-mail, on a Web page, or through peer-to-peer networks.**

According to iDefense, versions 7 and 8, as well as the latest beta of WinZip 9 are vulnerable to

this attack. However, the released Version 9 of WinZip is not vulnerable. **In addition to upgrading, users can prevent an attack by turning off automatic handling of these file types by WinZip in Windows Explorer.**

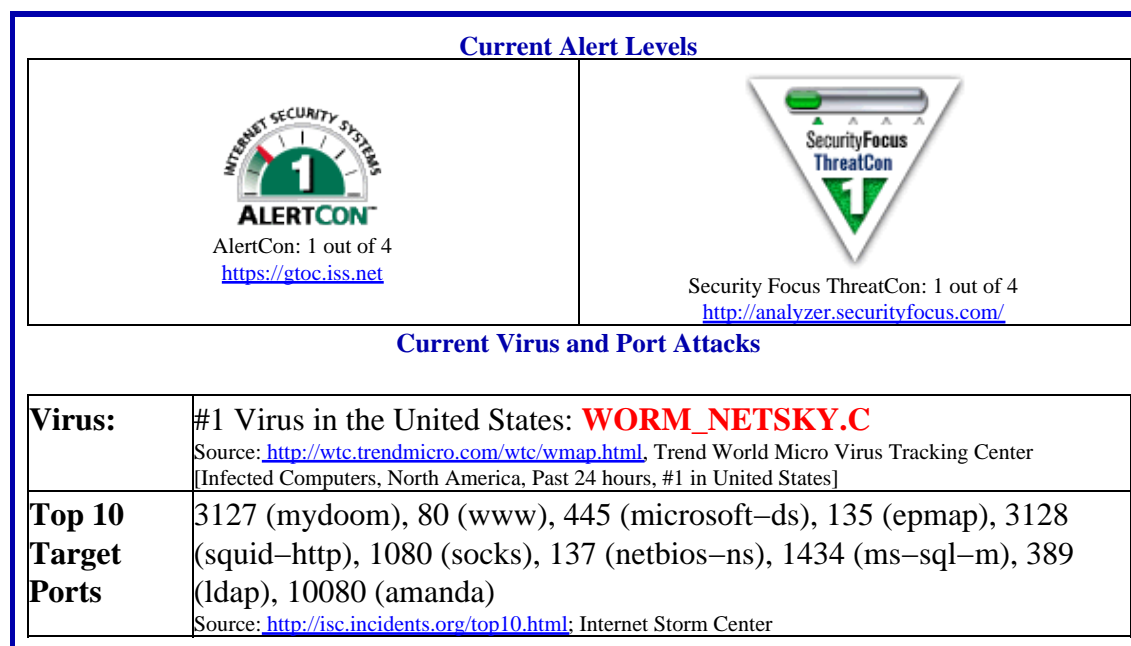
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.4149.1540280.00.asp>

- 29. February 27, eWEEK — File sharing vulnerability discovered in Mac OS X.** A security issue that could result in stolen passwords and data on Friday, February 27, was revealed for Apple Computer Inc.'s Apple Filing Protocol (AFP), a component of Mac OS X 10.3.2. In a posting to the SecurityFocus BUGTRAQ list, Chris Adams, a system administrator, noted that **while users could request secure connections, the system will not issue any alert or indication if an SSH connection is unavailable and then defaults to a non-secure connection.** The only indication was a negative one—users must be aware that an alert "Opening Secure Connection" did not appear. This could result in users sending unencrypted passwords over an insecure connection. Adams said that any such activity would only come as the result of an active attack. "OS X does warn you before using unencrypted passwords and AFP does prevent passive password collection by encrypting the log-in process to protect the password on its way to the server. This problem allows you to trick it into sending the unencrypted password to you instead of the intended server," he said. Though his BUGTRAQ warning provided workarounds, such as manually configuring a SSH tunnel or using SFTP instead, Adams suggested that SSH should be enabled by default for both client and server and the user interface modified to clearly warn when the system is unable to establish an SSH tunnel. Additional information is available on the SecruityFocus Website:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/9763/discussion/>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1759.1540556.00.asp>

### Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

30. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Snowstorm closes roads in plains states. Heavy snow blown by wind up to 45 mph closed hundreds of miles of highways Monday, March 1, in South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska, shutting down schools and at least one city government.** More than a foot of snow had fallen in parts of Wyoming, with 30 inches in the Colorado mountains, and snow drifted onto roads in South Dakota on Monday as fast as plows could clear them. The storm was headed toward the northeast, and the National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. **The South Dakota Highway Patrol closed 110 miles of Interstate 90 from Wall to the Wyoming state line because of snow, drifting and visibility that was down to zero in places.** Western Nebraska had 8 to 10 inches of snow, and a 100-mile stretch of I-80 was closed from Big Springs to the Wyoming line, along with other highways in the Panhandle and southwestern Nebraska. **Major roads also were closed in northeastern Colorado, stranding hundreds of motorists.** Colorado and Kansas police closed about 200 miles of I-70 from the Denver metropolitan area to Colby, KS.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=519&ncid=718&e=10&u=/ap/20040301/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/plains\\_storm](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=519&ncid=718&e=10&u=/ap/20040301/ap_on_re_us/plains_storm)

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